

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

GROWER DIRECT SUPPLY, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

SEVILLE FARMS, INC., et al.

Defendants.

Case No. 2:23-cv-05097-FLA (BFMx)

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE WHY
ACTION SHOULD NOT BE
DISMISSED FOR LACK OF
SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION**

1 Federal courts are courts of “limited jurisdiction,” possessing only “power
 2 authorized by the Constitution and statute[.]” *Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins. Co. of*
 3 *Am.*, 511 U.S. 375, 377 (1994); U.S. Const. art. III, § 2, cl. 1. Courts are presumed to
 4 lack jurisdiction unless the contrary appears affirmatively from the record. *See*
 5 *DaimlerChrysler Corp. v. Cuno*, 547 U.S. 332, 342 n. 3 (2006). Additionally, federal
 6 courts have an obligation to examine jurisdiction *sua sponte* before proceeding to the
 7 merits of a case. *See Ruhrgas AG v. Marathon Oil Co.*, 526 U.S. 574, 583 (1999).

8 Federal courts have jurisdiction where an action arises under federal law or
 9 where each plaintiff’s citizenship is diverse from each defendant’s citizenship and the
 10 amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs. 28 U.S.C.
 11 §§ 1331, 1332(a). A complaint filed in federal court must contain “a plausible
 12 allegation that the amount in controversy exceeds the jurisdictional threshold.” *Dart*
 13 *v. Cherokee Basin Operating Co., LLC v. Owens*, 574 U.S. 81, 89 (2014). Where a
 14 party contests, or a court questions, a party’s allegations concerning the amount in
 15 controversy, both sides shall submit proof, and the court must decide whether the
 16 party asserting jurisdiction has proven the amount in controversy by a preponderance
 17 of the evidence. *Id.* at 88–89; *see* Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(h)(3) (“If the court determines at
 18 any time that it lacks subject-matter jurisdiction, the court must dismiss the action.”).
 19 The same procedures apply when the existence of complete diversity of the parties is
 20 called into question. *See, e.g., Verb Tech. Co., Inc. v. Baker & Hostetler LLP*, Case
 21 No. 2:21-cv-06500-ODW (MAAx), 2021 WL 4125207 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 9, 2021).

22 The court has reviewed the Complaint in this action and is presently unable to
 23 conclude it has subject matter jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a).
 24 The court finds that the Complaint does not demonstrate by a preponderance of
 25 evidence that the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, or that complete diversity
 26 exists.

27 Accordingly, Plaintiff is ORDERED to SHOW CAUSE, in writing only, within
 28 fourteen (14) days from the date of this Order, why this action should not be

1 dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. Plaintiff is encouraged to submit
2 evidence and/or judicially noticeable facts in response to the court's Order. The
3 response shall be limited to ten (10) pages in length. Plaintiff should consider this
4 Order to be a two-pronged inquiry into the facial and factual sufficiency of Plaintiff's
5 demonstration of jurisdiction. *See Leite v. Crane Co.*, 749 F.3d 1117, 1122 (9th Cir.
6 2014).

7 As Plaintiff is the party asserting federal jurisdiction, Plaintiff's failure to
8 respond timely and adequately to this Order shall result in dismissal of the action
9 without further notice.

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11 IT IS SO ORDERED.
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13 Dated: August 3, 2023
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16 FERNANDO L. AENLLE-ROCHA
17 United States District Judge
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